

## Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils - November 2020

BMSDC Communications Mailbox <communications@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>

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To: All BDC Members

### Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



**November 2020**

Dear councillor,

As you know, at the beginning of each month, we will provide you with a round-up of the previous month's activity to support you in updating your town and parishes.

This month has coincided with the Government's announcement of a further national lockdown. There have been some immediate steps taken – for example the reinstatement of the Home But Not Alone phoneline (more information below).

However, there are other areas where we are still awaiting further guidance and the situation is likely to evolve quickly over coming days.

We will continue to issue regular councillor updates on our response to Covid-19 in our districts and **suggest that you review the most recent update to see the most up-to-date situation** in terms of our support for local business, communities and impact on our services ahead of your town or parish meetings. You will also continue to receive all media releases as they are issued and can [see them on our website here](#).

In the meantime, to assist you in giving your towns or parishes a rundown of activity during October, we include all recent announcements to date below:

#### **Keeping up-to-date on Covid-19 across Suffolk**

Babergh District Council is part of the Suffolk Resilience Forum – working with our neighbouring authorities, emergency services, public health and our NHS colleagues to protect our residents and communities. We are

working together to share information and advice across our communications channels – including our regular councillor updates, our website and social media channels.

To help you stay abreast of the situation across the county, regular [Suffolk Coronawatch Bulletins](#) are being produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through existing updates for councillors, or via the Suffolk County Council website.

### **Home, But Not Alone Phonenumber goes live again**

The Home, But Not Alone free phonenumber, which supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, is up and running again in light of this week's lockdown announcement.

The phonenumber helped thousands of people and families across Suffolk, who often didn't have a network of family or friends to call upon, to access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes during lockdown earlier this year.

The telephone number is freephone **0800 876 6926** and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The Home, But Not Alone phonenumber complements The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber (0800 068 3131) which helps those with debt, benefits employment or housing worries.

[Read the full story](#)

### **Self-isolation support payments for low-income earners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk**

Residents on low-incomes and unable to work because they have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, can now claim a £500 payment to compensate for loss of earnings.

[Read the full story](#)

### **Great Run Local**

Great Run have taken the difficult decision to cancel the Great Run Local (GRL) scheme with immediate effect. An email has been sent to all GRL co-ordinators and participants advising of this update. Following the success of GRL events in Holbrook we will continue to work with Suffolk County Council and other partners to try and find an alternative local solution, as part of ongoing our commitment to bright and healthy futures for our communities. Please contact [Sue Calver](#) should you wish to discuss this further.

### **Councils finalise plan for districts' bright future**

Councillors are set to consider the latest Joint Local Plan – shaping how Babergh and Mid Suffolk's towns and villages will deliver housing, important infrastructure, and essential employment until 2037.

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Cross-party task force puts biodiversity at the heart of Babergh and Mid Suffolk**

Councillors are set to consider a raft of environmental measures developed by a cross-party task force – tackling climate change and furthering the councils' ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030.

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Babergh beats off competition to land top spot for life satisfaction in Suffolk**

A recent survey has ranked Babergh as having the greatest life satisfaction in the county – reflecting the district's residents, businesses, heritage, and 'natural' beauty.

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Council committee gives green light for Sproughton development**

Babergh District Council recently agreed outline planning permission for 105 houses in Sproughton – providing 37 "affordable homes" for low income families, opportunity for self-build plots, a community woodland and highways improvements.

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Councils demonstrate they can meet future housing requirement**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently published their Five-Year Housing Land Supply position statement, evidencing that Government housing requirements can be met by the districts until 2025 and beyond.

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Shortlist announced for the 2020 Innovation Awards**

28 businesses from across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been shortlisted in the first ever business Innovation Awards.

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Doors open on Sudbury's Virtual High Street**

Shoppers can now enjoy the very best of Sudbury from the comfort of their front room as the new look Virtual High Street opens its "doors".

[Read the full story.](#)

### **Visitors can scrap the paper with new digital parking**

Motorists parking in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can now scrap their paper ticket and go digital – to help protect their health and the environment.

[Read the full story.](#)

**Cross-party councillors in agreement on response to planning system overhaul**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councillors are united in their response to the Government's Planning for the Future consultation – insisting that proposals must not be at the detriment of local communities and should not lose focus on the challenges facing rural districts.

[Read the full story.](#)

**CIL funding boost**

Town and parish councils across Babergh recently received much-needed CIL funding collected between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020. A total of £143,822 was allocated to 15 town and parish councils in the district. Parish councils receive this money automatically and are eligible for up to 15% of collected funds from their area, subject to a financial cap, with the potential for this to increase to 25% if they have successfully adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.